AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method implemented at least partially in a programmed computer for sharing risk of loss among a plurality of equity investment instrument holders, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of at least three holders of equity investment instruments that desire sharing of a risk of loss, wherein the equity investment instruments of an individual holder are the same, while at the same time the equity investment instruments of each holder are diverse with respect to the equity investment instruments of other holders, forming a diversified set of equity investment instruments reflecting different and diverse industry sectors or industry subsectors, further wherein performance of the equity investment instruments of an individual holder is closely correlated because the equity investment instruments are the same and investment performance across holders is not closely correlated because the equity investment instruments of different holders reflect different and diverse industry sectors or industry subsectors;

aggregating by using the programmed computer, to aggregate premiums to form a loss reduction fund, the premiums at least partially contributed by the plurality of holders;

determining by using the programmed computer, to determine which of

the plurality of holders incurred a loss in the respective equity investment instruments at a predetermined time, wherein some of the holders may incur a loss and other holders may not incur a loss;

determining by the programmed computer, a loss threshold, wherein losses less than the loss threshold incurred by the holders that incurred a loss are not reimbursed and at least a portion of the losses greater than the loss threshold incurred by the holders that incurred a loss are reimbursed;

determining by ~~using~~ the programmed computer, ~~to determine~~ losses incurred by the holders that incurred a loss ~~according to a loss threshold mechanism~~, wherein the amount of loss from one holder may be different from the loss of another holder; and

reimbursing by ~~using~~ the programmed computer, ~~to reimburse~~ at least a portion of the losses greater than the loss threshold incurred by the holders that incurred a loss ~~according to the loss threshold mechanism~~, wherein reimbursement to a particular equity investment instrument holder is at least partially determined by the loss of the particular holder, with consideration for losses of the plurality of holders, where at least two holders with losses are at least partially reimbursed and other holders may not be reimbursed, and further wherein reimbursement of losses incurred by the holders either depletes the loss reduction fund or all losses incurred by holders are reimbursed from the loss reduction fund.

2.   (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein reimbursing is from the loss reduction fund.

3.   (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein reimbursing is from a fund other than the loss reduction fund.

4.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the premiums are determined as a percentage of an equity investment instrument price.

5.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the equity investment instrument price is a current share trading price at the time the premiums are aggregated.

6.   (cancelled)

7.   (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the equity investment instruments are all within the same or related investment categories.

8.   (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the investment categories include equity risk.

9.   (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the investment categories include beta.

10.   (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the investment

categories are selected from a group including Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

codes, North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), securities indexes, and

HOOVERS securities sectors.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein

the portion of the loss that is reimbursed begins at the <u>loss</u> threshold ~~loss~~.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein

the <u>loss</u> threshold ~~loss~~ is a percentage value.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~11~~, wherein

the <u>loss</u> threshold ~~loss~~ is a dollar value.

15 - 18. (cancelled)

19. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of

holders experiencing the largest percentage of loss receive the largest percentage of loss

reimbursement.

20. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the

premiums are a percentage of the value of the equity investment instruments at

approximately the time that the premiums are aggregated.

21.   (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising creating a pool of a plurality of loss reduction funds.

22.   (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein reimbursement to the particular holder comes from the pool.

23.   (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein reimbursement to the particular holder does not come from the pool.

24.   (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the predetermined time of one loss reduction fund is not necessarily the same as the predetermined time of another loss reduction fund.

25.   (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein reimbursement to the particular holder considers both losses correlated to the loss reduction fund of the particular holder, and losses correlated to the other loss reduction funds in the plurality of funds.

26.   (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating risk through risk capital allocation.

27.   (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising redistributing profit.

28.   (cancelled)

29.   (currently amended) A method implemented at least partially in a programmed computer for sharing risk of loss among a plurality of equity investment instrument holders, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of at least three holders of equity investment instruments that desire sharing of a risk of loss, wherein the equity investment instruments of an individual holder are the same, while at the same time the equity investment instruments of holders are diverse with respect to the equity investment instruments of other holders, forming a diversified set of equity investment instruments reflecting different and diverse industry sectors or industry subsectors, further wherein performance of the equity investment instruments of an individual holder is closely correlated because the equity investment instruments are the same and investment performance across holders is not closely correlated because the equity investment instruments of different holders reflect different and diverse industry sectors or industry subsectors;

aggregating by using the programmed computer, to aggregate premiums to form a loss reduction fund, the premiums determined as a percentage of a current trading price of the equity investment instruments at the time the premiums are aggregated and at least partially contributed by the plurality of holders;

7

determining by ~~using~~ the programmed computer, ~~to determine~~ which of the plurality of holders incurred a loss in the respective equity investment instruments at a predetermined time, wherein some of the holders may incur a loss and other holders may not incur a loss;

determining by the programmed computer, a percentage loss threshold, wherein losses less than the percentage loss threshold incurred by the holders that incurred a loss are not reimbursed and at least a portion of the losses greater than the percentage loss threshold incurred by the holders that incurred a loss are reimbursed;

determining by ~~using~~ the programmed computer, ~~to determine~~ losses incurred by the holders that incurred a loss ~~according to a loss threshold mechanism~~, wherein the amount of loss from one holder may be different from the loss of another holder; and

~~using the programmed computer to determine a percentage loss threshold;~~
~~and~~

reimbursing by ~~using~~ the programmed computer, ~~to reimburse~~ the holders that incurred a loss from the loss reduction fund according to the percentage loss threshold ~~mechanism and for losses greater than the loss threshold~~, where at least two holders with losses are reimbursed and other holders may not be reimbursed, and further wherein reimbursement of losses incurred by the holders either depletes the loss reduction fund or all losses incurred by holders are reimbursed from the loss reduction fund.

30 - 52. (cancelled)